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For Immediate Release

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Republican JOBS II plan pushes forward to save and create jobs, promote healthier business environment

February 18, 2004 – Senate and House Republicans today unveiled the next phase of their comprehensive plan to jumpstart Michigan’s stalled economy, announced Sen. Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance). The second phase of the legislative JOBS plan – Job Opportunities for Business Success – targets tax relief to businesses that create new jobs and eliminates many of the barriers to entrepreneurial activities.

“I’m pleased to join my colleagues today in working together to make Michigan competitive in the job market once again,” Hammerstrom said. “We need to prove to businesses that moving their operations to Michigan is a win-win situation for everyone.”

JOBS II picks up where Republicans left off by creating new job opportunities, saving existing jobs, and promoting a friendlier and healthier business climate in Michigan.

The JOBS II plan is a broad-ranging call to action on Michigan’s job creation front. Specifically, JOBS II would:

- Provide tax relief to businesses that create new jobs;
- Eliminate taxation of federal and state research funds;
- Get broadband on Main Street by expanding Michigan’s Broadband Authority to allow for funding of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminate red-tape nightmares by creating a “bureaucracy buster team” to recommend ways to remove burdensome regulations for businesses;
- Create a personal property tax exemption for the first \$10,000 of a business’ personal property value;

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- Keep business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies;
- Simplify filing of Michigan Single Business Tax forms;
- Expand the use of private labs for state business; and
- Streamline U.S.-Canadian border issues by calling on the Governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations.

“By removing some of the current obstacles businesses face, we’re demonstrating our commitment to Michigan residents to bring jobs back and turn the economy around,” Hammerstrom said.

Bills implementing the JOBS II action plan are currently being drafted and the Legislature could start acting on them next week. Senate and House leaders both hope to have the entire plan on the Governor’s desk by summer.

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